REMARKS

The Office action mailed on 13 May 2004 (Paper No. 9) has been carefully considered. Allowance of claims 1, 3, 5 thru 8, 10, 12, 14 and 15 is greatly appreciated.

Claims 1, 4 thru 7, 12, 13 and 15 are being amended. Thus, claims 1, 3 thru 8, 10 and 12 thru 15 are pending in the application.

In paragraph 2 of the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 4 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102 for alleged anticipation by Kanota *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,991,500. In paragraph 3 of the Office action, the Examiner states that claims 1, 3, 5 thru 8, 10, 12, 14 and 15 are allowable over the prior art of record. For the reasons stated below, it is submitted that the invention recited in the claims, as now amended, is distinguishable from the prior art cited by the Examiner so as to preclude rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 or §103.

Allowed independent claim 1 is being amended for the purpose of correcting its form only, thereby achieving consistency in claim language throughout. Specifically, the previously recited "input video signal to be recorded" and "content containing input video signal" are being amended to read "an input video signal to be recorded" and "input video signal", respectively. The phrase "content containing" is being eliminated as unnecessary and redundant. Nevertheless, the scope of allowed independent claim 1 has

not been changed, and thus allowance of independent claim 1 and associated dependent claims 3 and 5 should not be affected.

Independent claim 4 is being amended as to form in the manner set forth above relative to independent claim 1. In addition, independent claim 4 is being amended to include the recitation, "said predetermined threshold value being not less than a sum of horizontal synchronizing signals and macrovision signals". It is submitted that this recitation distinguishes the invention of claim 4 from the disclosure of Kanota *et al.* '500 in that the cited reference does not disclose or suggest first means comprising a detector for indicating detection of the copy-preventing signal when a pulse count value in a predetermined interval of the composite synchronizing signal is not less than a predetermined threshold value, the predetermined threshold value being not less than a sum of horizontal synchronizing signals and macrovision signals.

In paragraph 2 of the Office action, the Examiner cited column 10, lines 11-21 and elements 19 and 20 of Figure 21 of Kanota *et al.* '500 as corresponding to the recitation contained in the last paragraph of the previous version of claim 4. However, the pulse count value recited in claim 4, as now amended, does not at all resemble the pulse count value disclosed in Kanota *et al.* '500. More specifically, Kanota *et al.* '500 discloses (at column 10, lines 11-21) a synchronizing signal separator which is adapted to separate vertical and horizontal synchronizing pulses from the received video signal, these

separated sync pulses being used to trigger a timing generator 19. As further disclosed in the cited patent, the timing generator 19 is adapted to be preset to a predetermined count in response to the separated vertical sync pulses, the count being incremented in response to each separated horizontal sync pulse. It is further stated that, in this manner, timing generator 19 functions to count the line intervals in each field and, when the line intervals in which the copyright information and copy generation signals are superposed and reached, the time generator supplies an enable signal to decoder 20, whereby the copyright information and the copy generation signals then present are decoded.

In contrast, the "predetermined threshold value" set in the invention, as recited in claim 4, is "not less than a sum of horizontal synchronizing signals and macrovision signals". This technique is disclosed in the specification of the present application, at page 6, line 9 thru page 7, line 14. Moreover, such technique is not disclosed or suggested in the prior art cited by the Examiner, and thus independent claim 4 should now be in condition for allowance.

Allowed independent claim 6 is being amended as to form only in a manner consistent with the amendments to allowed independent claim 1 discussed above. Thus, independent claim 6 is not being amended as to scope or substance, and therefore allowance of independent claim 6 and associated dependent claims 7 and 8 should still be appropriate.

Independent claim 13 is being amended as to form in a manner consistent with the amendments to independent claims 1 and 6 discussed above, and is also being amended to add a recitation identical to that discussed above relative to independent claim 4. Thus, for the same reasons set forth above relative to independent claim 4, independent claim 13 should now be in condition for allowance.

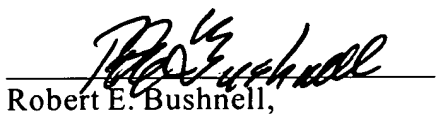
Independent claim 15 is being amended as to form in a manner consistent with the amendments to independent claim 1 discussed above. Thus, the scope of independent claim 15 has not been changed, and allowance of independent claim 15 should still be appropriate.

Finally, dependent claims 5, 7 and 12 are being amended as to form only. Thus, allowance of these claims should not be adversely affected by this Amendment.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance, and early issuance thereof is solicited. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's attorney.

A fee of $86 is incurred for one independent claim in excess of 6.

Respectfully submitted,



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